



SOUTH DOWNS VIEW

SHARING STORIES FROM BRITAIN'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK 2015



FOREST FAMILY FUN Page 8



Den building, hide and seek, tree climbing, picnicking and fungus foraging are just a few activities perfect for a day in the woods.

HEAVENLY HEATHLANDS Page 7



The purple flash of heather or the stark yellow of gorse against a multitude of green and brown heathland grass gives these sites a unique beauty.

BECOMING A WILDLIFE SPOTTER Page 16



River valleys, chalk streams, woodlands, farmland, wet meadows and heathland make the South Downs a great place for wildlife.

WELCOME...

On 31 March 2010, parishes across Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex became part of the South Downs, the UK's newest National Park. One year later, the National Park Authority (SDNPA) took responsibility for promoting its purposes and the interests of the people who live and work within it.

For the SDNPA three major achievements have been the establishment, from scratch, of an ambitious new organisation; the creation of many new partnerships; and the delivery of an innovative new approach to planning. But what changes have been happening on the ground in the South Downs? Here are just five successes chosen from the many that have characterised the new National Park's first five years:

1 Unimproved chalk grassland is recognised internationally as an important and endangered habitat which covers only about 4 per cent of the National Park. At the time of designation many of the rare species it supports, such as the Duke of Burgundy butterfly, were under threat. We worked with partner organisations and the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service (whose membership has increased from 300 to 450 volunteers over the past five years) to conserve, enhance and join up areas of chalk grassland and

the diverse wildlife it supports. This has led to an increase in many rare species with numbers of the Duke of Burgundy exploding in the project area.

2 More than 162 community projects in our market towns, hamlets and villages across the National Park have been supported by our Sustainable Communities Fund. These include walking trails, food festivals, visitor guides, local theatre productions and community shops among many other things. Discover five of them on page 18.

3 Visitors and residents can now enjoy nearly 10km of new cycle paths across the National Park, with 55km to follow over the next few years. This is thanks to over £4m investment from the central Government's Cycling Ambition Fund as well as additional support from a number of local authorities.

4 Built at the start of the 20th Century King Edward VII hospital in West Sussex was in serious decline since its closure

in 2006. Made up of a number of Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings surrounded by a Gertrude Jekyll designed Registered Historic Garden – leaving the buildings to decay wasn't an option. This was the first major development to be approved in the National Park by the SDNPA and planners worked closely with the developers to make sure that restoration was sensitive. The project was recognised by the Royal Town and Planning Institute's Awards, proving that appropriate planning can add value to protected landscapes.

5 Over the past two years we've been working in collaboration with local organisations and businesses to develop a new identity for the National Park. The identity will add value to the work of farmers, other businesses and communities across the National Park and is also designed to let people know they are in a special place, helping us to encourage responsible dog walking and the use of public transport.

And what will you see over the next five years? Work is underway to improve our heathland and encourage more people to travel here by bus and train. Over the next couple of years we hope to see the shared identity being used across the National Park and, if all goes to plan, parts of the National Park will form a new South Downs

National Park International Dark Skies Reserve. By 2017 we expect the first ever South Downs Local Plan to be in place and underpinning planning decisions throughout the National Park in order to meet our responsibilities to conserve the landscape while serving the needs of our communities and the local economy.

Together, we're going to be very busy!



Trevor Beattie,
Chief Executive



Margaret Paren,
Chair

CONTENTS

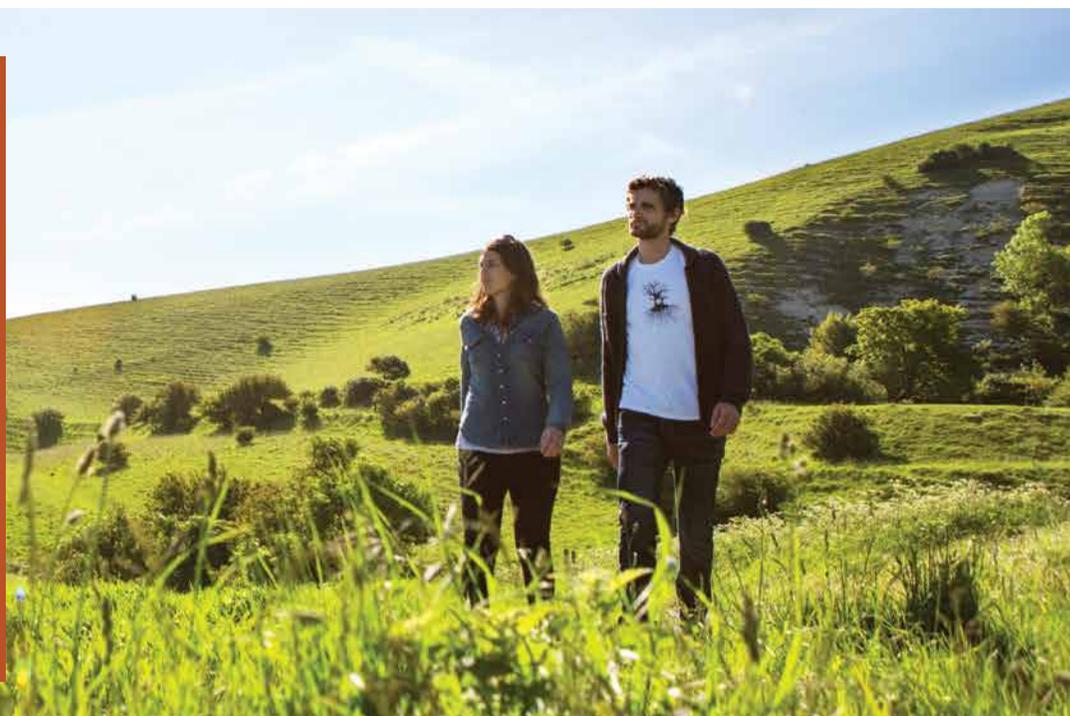
HISTORY OF THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK.....	3	JOHN MUIR AWARD IN THE NATIONAL PARK.....	15
PHOTO COMPETITION.....	4	BECOME A WILDLIFE SPOTTER	16
KEEP OUR DARK SKIES DARK	5	WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN...	17
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE...	6	GET TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITIES	18
HEAVENLY HEATHLAND.....	7	PLANNING IN THE PARK.....	19
FORESTRY FAMILY FUN.....	8	GET INSPIRED	20
2015 EVENTS.....	9	WRITERS OF THE DOWNS	21
GET A FRESH PERSPECTIVE	12	VOLUNTEERING.....	22
DISCOVER THE SOUTH DOWNS WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST...	14	GEOCACHING IN THE SOUTH DOWNS.....	23

Tourist Information Points

Arundel 01903 885866 www.arundel.org.uk	Horsham 01403 211661 www.visithorsham.co.uk
Bognor Regis www.sussexbythesea.com	Lewes 01273 483448 www.visitsussex.org
Brighton 01273 290337 www.visitbrighton.com	Littlehampton 01903 718984 www.lookandsea.co.uk
Burgess Hill 01444 238202 www.burgesshill.gov.uk	Petersfield 01730 268829 www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chichester 01243 775888 www.visitchichester.org	Seaford 01323 897426 www.visitsussex.org
Eastbourne 01323 415415 www.visiteastbourne.com	Worthing 01903 221066 www.visitworthing.co.uk
Haslemere 01428 645425 www.haslemere.com/vic/	Winchester 01962 840500 www.visitwinchester.co.uk

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

Beginning with the first campaigns to establish National Parks and wider public access to the countryside. Here is an overview of the history of the South Downs National Park...



© SDNPA/Mischa Haller

1923 **Society of Sussex Downsmen (South Downs Society) form**
The group form due to uncontrolled urban development (Peacehaven) sprawling over the Downs. Further east, coastal downland at Crowlink is saved by public subscription.

1929 **Council for Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) urge the setting up of National Parks in the British Isles**
The Eastbourne Corporation purchases its Downs (4000 acres) to protect it from development. Three years later County Councils in the South Downs can buy out the development rights of landowners in order to protect the area.

1932 **Mass trespass on Kinder Scout (Peak District) increases pressure for National Parks**

1934 **South Downs Preservation Bill**

1936 **Standing Committee on National Parks (SCNP) is formed**

The Government are urged to protect and allow access to the countryside for the Nation.

1947 **Hobhouse Report**
Following the Dower Report, the government sets up a committee to prepare for National Park legislation. The South Downs is included in the list of proposed National Parks.

1949 **The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act establishes National Parks, with purposes and a management framework.**

1951 **Peak District designated as first National Park**

1956 **South Downs is rejected from list of National Parks because of post-war extensive cultivation.**

1962 **East Hampshire designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

1966 **Sussex Downs designated an AONB**

1972 **South Downs Way opens**
A definitive line running from Eastbourne to Buriton is agreed.

1990 **Following a series of damaging developments a new South Downs National Park (SDNP) campaign emerges.**

1992 **The Sussex Downs Conservation Board (SDCB) established as a six year National experiment in AONB management.**

1995 **South Downs Way officially reaches Winchester**

1998 **Countryside Commission says that the "South Downs do not meet the criteria" for National Park designation. The SDCB is extended for three years, then another three years...**

1999 **Labour announce start of process to create new National Parks in the South Downs and New Forest.**
The Countryside Agency (formerly the Commission) says the SDNP meets the criteria.

2000 **Designation process begins.**

2001 **Public boundary consultation begins.**

2002 **The Countryside Agency publishes the SDNP Designation Order.**

2003 **The SDNP Public Inquiry begins – lasting 16 months, and reconvenes in 2008.**

2005 **The Sussex Downs Conservation Board and the East Hampshire AONB merge to form the South Downs Joint Committee.**

2009 **Confirmation**
On 31 March 2009 Secretary of State Hilary Benn announces that the Government are to confirm the South Downs National Park.

2010 **South Downs National Park is designated**
Britain's 15th National Park with a shadow National Park Authority in place.

2011 **South Downs National Park Authority is fully operational.**

2012 **The 2050 Vision for the SDNP is adopted and the State of the National Park report is published.**

2013 **Five year South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan is published.**

2015 **South Downs National Park celebrates its fifth anniversary.**



© SDNPA/Sam Moore

The South Downs National Park is pretty special. In fact it won't surprise you to hear that people come from all over the world to take in famous sights like the Seven Sisters cliffs.

But we know there's much more to our story than these iconic views, so this year we set a challenge for photographers – amateur or professional – to capture 'Hidden Gems'.

The judges were very impressed with the results. In fact, the quality was so high that a shortlist of their favourite eight photos was opened up to a 'people's choice' vote with an additional prize of £100.

WINNING PHOTO

"For some this is as far from a typical view of the South Downs as you can get, it's a magical photo and the longer you look the better it gets," said Nick Heasman, Western Area Manager for the South Downs National Park Authority.

"This is a cracking shot. A technically excellent photograph even in this exceptionally strong shortlist. I am impressed by the talent out there," said Steve Watkins, Editor of *Outdoor Photography Magazine* and competition judge.

SECOND PRIZE

Taken by Neil Hulme in Eartham Woods, the judges were impressed with the originality of the composition which draws you in to a private moment in a lush woody world.

THIRD PRIZE

As well as the balance of the image the judges loved how it captured such a personal moment. Few people think of coming to the South Downs to ride surf but this surfer has followed the weather to Tidemills to get his fix.

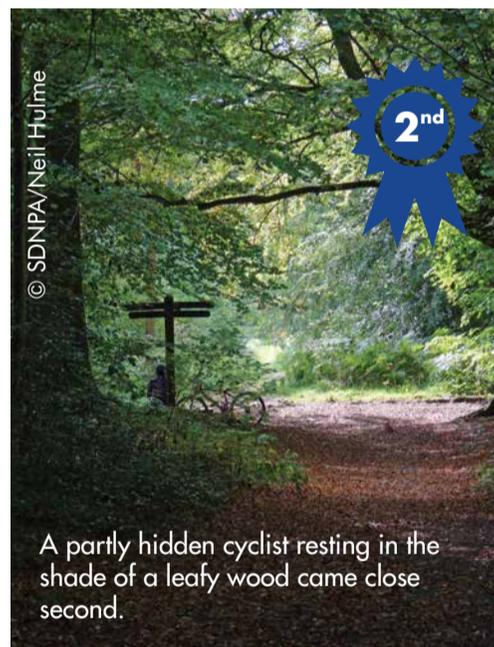


PHOTO COMPETITION

HUNTING OUT THE HIDDEN GEMS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS

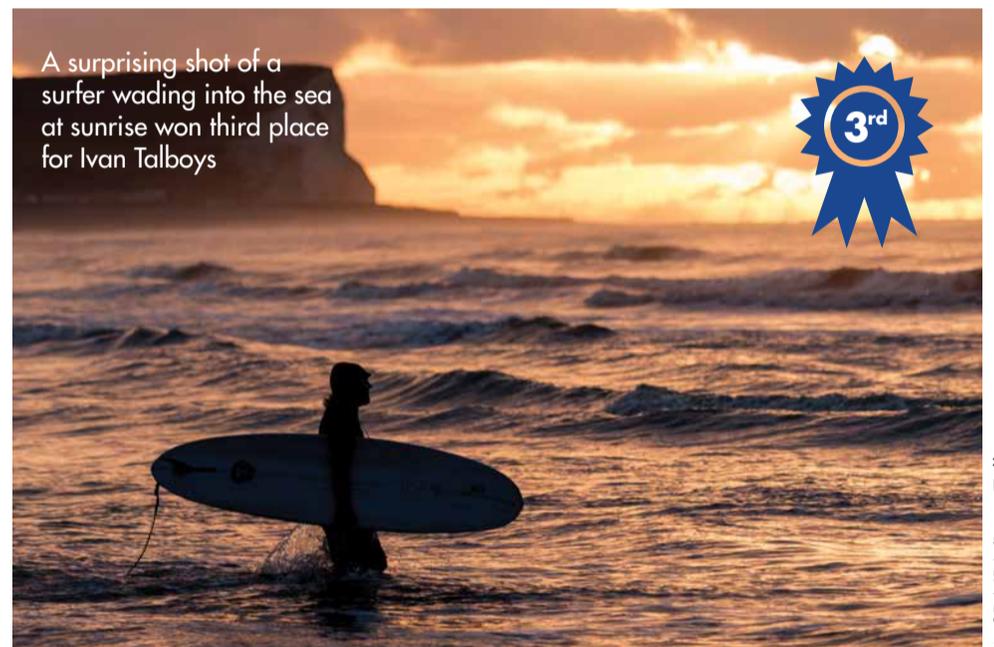
First prize went to this ethereal photograph of a dew pond at dusk by Andy Flowerday. Taken near Jack & Jill windmills at Clayton the judges felt it fit the theme perfectly.

© SDNPA/Andy Flowerday



A partly hidden cyclist resting in the shade of a leafy wood came close second.

© SDNPA/Neil Hulme



A surprising shot of a surfer wading into the sea at sunrise won third place for Ivan Talboys

© SDNPA/Ivan Talboys

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

We suspect that Andy Walker knows this spot particularly well and hypnotic patterns made by the golden bales offset by the dramatic sky seem to have moved you as much as they did us.



Straw bales at Long Furlong was by far and away the people's favourite – getting almost 30 per cent of the votes.

© SDNPA/Andrew Walker

PHOTO COMPETITION 2015-16 'FRESH PERSPECTIVES'

Think you can do better?

Show us the National Park from a quirky new angle: from above, from a bus, in the dark – it's up to you. Our 2015-16 photo competition theme is Fresh Perspectives. First prize is £250, second prize is £150 and third prize is £50. And this year, to highlight our campaign to become an International Dark Skies Reserve, we have a special prize of £100 for the best photo of the South Downs by starlight. Find out more and download an entry form at www.southdowns.gov.uk/photo2015

KEEP OUR DARK SKIES DARK

You might be lucky enough to look around at the beautiful countryside of the South Downs National Park everyday but how often do you look up? The South Downs is a great place to experience the best free light show there is, with twinkling stars, whizzing shooting stars and even bright planets scattered across the night sky.

© SDNPA/Sean Lewis

Less than 10 per cent of the UK population can see the beauty of a natural night sky full of stars. With the south east rated as one of the most light-polluted regions of the UK we are extremely lucky to have some 'truly dark' areas in the South Downs.

However, as the most populated National Park in the UK light pollution threatens to ruin these dark skies for everyone.

Why are dark skies important?

Around 30 per cent of vertebrates and 60 per cent of invertebrates are nocturnal and several species depend on darkness for survival.

Dark Skies Dan, a National Park Ranger, explains, 'Even in the countryside, unnecessary, poorly aimed and overly bright floodlights and security lights can affect the day-night cycles, behaviour, feeding and mating patterns of bats, birds, moths, glow-worms and many other species.'

'Not only does light pollution threaten the existence of these animals, it stops us from being able to see the true beauty of our night skies with the naked eye. Although getting a close-up look at the moon or the planets through a telescope is great, nothing beats being able to look up as you're getting off the bus or taking the bins out and see a sky full of stars sparkling back at you.'

Pledge to save the dark skies

You can help protect the dark skies of the South Downs (and therefore the wildlife) by showing your support for the National Park's application for International Dark Skies Reserve (IDSR) status. As part of this bid we need to show that people living in and around the South Downs support the application, so take the Dark Skies Pledge here www.southdowns.gov.uk/darkskiespledge

5 top stargazing locations in the South Downs

1. Midhurst area – explore the Open Access land on Iping, Stedham and Barlavington commons.
2. Queen Elizabeth Country Park – get closer to the stars on top of Butser Hill.
3. The Downland car parks – Firle, Harting Down, Bignor and the Trundle make great stargazing points along the South Downs Ridge.
4. Birling Gap – visit when the tide is out for a spectacular star gazing location.
5. Old Winchester Hill – descend into the valley or stay up top and take in the Milky Way while the glow from Southampton sits on the horizon.

5 top tips for a great starry night photo

1. Use a tripod.
2. With the widest F-Stop available; experiment with ISO settings between 400-1600.
3. Use a 10 second delay (self-timer) and set the exposure to around 25–30 seconds – the delay will eliminate button-press shake.
4. Try briefly illuminating landscape features in the foreground by quickly flashing a torch.
5. Beat the cold. Wrap up warm and take spare batteries!

If you get a good shot enter it into the Dark Night Skies section of this years photo competition – see page 4 for details.

FIVE TOP CONSTELLATIONS

Keep your eye out for these constellations throughout 2015

APRIL – CANCER

THE CRAB In April look to the Southern sky to spot Cancer the Crab. The bright star just to the left is Jupiter and the beehive cluster of stars – M44 Praesepe – sits between the eyes of the crab.



JUNE – SCORPIUS

During summer look for the Scorpius constellation rising late on the southern horizon. The wide but faint haze to the left of Scorpius is the Milky Way.



AUGUST – PERSEUS AND THE METEORS

The best meteor shower in the UK occurs around 10 August in the constellation Perseus, in the north-east sky under the easy to spot 'W' of the constellation Cassiopeia.



OCTOBER – LEO THE LION

Early risers will see Jupiter, Mars and Venus very close together under the constellation of Leo in the eastern sky. Leo is easy to spot lying under the big dipper with the two brightest stars near its paws.

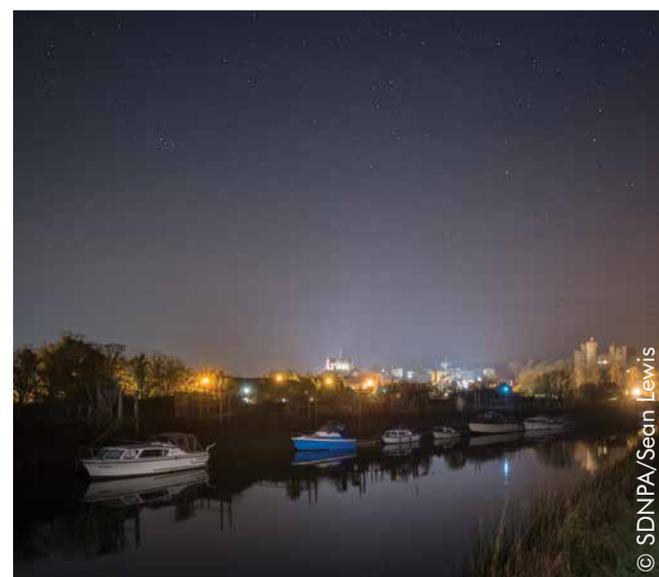


DECEMBER – CYGNUS THE SWAN

In the western sky early evening this constellation is formed in a cross with the North American Nebula sitting just off its tail.



Images © http://stellarium.org



© SDNPA/Sean Lewis



© SDNPA/Sam Moore

The South Downs National Park has something for everyone. Whether you live here, you're visiting for a day or a week, you love the adrenaline thrill of speeding down hills on your bike or you're looking for a new place to explore.

Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) aims to make a difference to communities in Sussex through a variety of projects and initiatives. One recent project called Sompriti, involved working with the South Downs National Park Authority to set up a walk leader training course for local communities who had never enjoyed the South Downs.

Fourteen women from a range of backgrounds including Indian, Kenyan, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Turkish, South African, Chinese, Malaysian, Sri-Lankan and Jamaican took part. The course focused on providing the knowledge and confidence to explore the South Downs and share their new passion for the place by leading walks

for their friends and family. They also received first aid training to ensure they were prepared for any eventuality.

'Walking is a different experience every time. It opens horizons of thinking outside the box. It not only gives healthy living options but also improves our ability to challenge and push the limits to do more both physically and mentally. I remember one of the walks when we were walking to the Barn in Seaford and got lost on the way. Yet we got to a new place. We

laughed. And we enjoyed our efforts for carrying on.'

Sompriti group member.

One participant said, 'I learnt about a lot of new things and feel more experienced about walking and more confident to do it very often. I get to know about new places and views and also how to organise before walking what the things are we need to take and how to prepare ourselves. Because we go with friends it makes me more relaxed, we talk, laugh and find out new things. After the training I got more confident and got to know new places. Now I know if visitors come from London where to take them to explore the local nature and take in some fresh air.'

This project has been a great success with the women now organising their own walks across the South Downs. The group are keen to continue developing this work and SCDA Sompriti will be supporting them wherever possible.

'Now I know if visitors come from London where to take them to explore the local nature and take in some fresh air.'

Sompriti group member.

5

REASONS SOMPRITI MEMBERS LOVE WALKING:

1

WE LEARN NEW THINGS

2

WE CONNECT WITH NATURE

3

WE SEE FRIENDS AND SOCIALISE

4

WE CAN SHARE THINGS WITH OUR FAMILIES

5

WE FEEL HEALTHY, FRESH AND ACTIVE!



© SDNPA/Mischa Haller

© SDNPA/Mischa Haller



HEAVENLY HEATHLAND

The purple flash of heather or the stark yellow of gorse against a backdrop of green and brown gives heathlands a unique beauty. Chalk escarpments define the east of the National Park, but as you move north-west, the landscape changes.

Open hills give way to a beguiling network of ancient hedge-lined lanes, dense tracts of woodland, and heath. Although they have a mystical beauty and a wealth of wildlife, our heathlands are now rarer than rainforest and are one of our most threatened habitats covering a mere 1 per cent (1,595 hectares) of the South Downs National Park.

Although small in size the heathlands of the South Downs are rich in wildlife and beauty so here are some top tips to help you explore these fascinating locations...

5 HEATHLAND SITES TO EXPLORE IN THE SOUTH DOWNS...

Iping and Stedham Commons:

This lowland heath is one of the richest examples of heathland remaining in West Sussex and is a great place to spot the silver studded blue butterfly.

Petersfield Heath:

Here you'll find 21 Bronze Age barrows set in grassland and woodland next to the beautiful heath pond.

Woolmer forest:

This wooded heath, formerly a medieval hunting ground and site of Iron Age and Roman discoveries of national significance, is now the only place in the British Isles where you can find all 12 native species of reptile and amphibian.

Wiggonholt Common:

Located beside the Pulborough Brooks RSPB reserve you can spot species such as the hardy bell heather which thrives on the sandy soil.

Lullington Heath:

Visit in August to see the beautiful pink of the heather against the yellow, coconut-scented gorse bushes. 250

HEATHLANDS REUNITED PROJECT

In the spring of 2014 a Heritage Lottery Fund Development Grant enabled the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and a range of partners (see below) to begin a 5 year project to restore and connect areas of rare heathland.

The Heathland Reunited project aims to achieve better, larger areas of sustainably managed heath within the South Downs National Park which will eventually cover an area greater than 1,200 football pitches. Working with partners this project will connect existing heathland sites through the creation of wildlife corridors between current 'island' heath sites where wildlife has previously been isolated and vulnerable. This project also aims to help heathland users and local communities learn more about their heathlands and in turn help to protect this vital habitat.

The Heathlands Reunited project is being carried out in partnership with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MOD), Forestry Commission, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust, Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust, The Lynchmere Society, National Trust, RSPB and Sussex Wildlife Trust.

To keep up to date with progress on the Heathlands Reunited project visit our website www.southdowns.gov.uk



types of plant can be found growing on what is one of the largest areas of chalk heath in Britain.

All of these sites can be reached by public transport, visit www.traveline.info to plan your adventure!

5

SPECIES TO LOOK OUT FOR ON OUR HEATHS...



© Anne Katrin Purkiss

Natterjack Toad – Identified by the toad 'walk' and a bold yellow stripe down the centre of its back..



© Nigel Symington

Sundew – Traps and digests insects to get nutrients in its harsh acidic environment.



© Nigel Symington

Silver Studded Blue Butterfly – Identified by silvery blue spots on the underside of its hind wings.



© Hugh Clark/Sussex Wildlife

Sand Lizard – Reaching lengths of 20cm they have brown patterns on their back and two strong dorsal stripes.



© Paul Roberts/Sussex Wildlife Trust

Dartford Warbler – Unlike other British warblers these hardy birds don't migrate for winter.



© SDNPA/Mischa Haller

FORESTRY FAMILY FUN

Den building, hide and seek, tree climbing, picnicking and fungus foraging are just a few activities perfect for a day in the woods. With over 38,000 hectares of woodland, the South Downs National Park has more woodland than any other National Park in England and Wales making it the perfect place for some forestry fun.

The South Downs has a rich and diverse mix of woodland types, including some of the largest yew woodlands in the UK, steep valley sides cloaked in hanger woodlands, large oak and beech woodlands and traditional coppice woodland. 45 per cent is classed as Ancient and Semi-Natural woodland, meaning the land has been under constant tree cover for more than 400 years. Think of the stories these trees could tell if they could talk...

Woods are fantastic places to look and listen for wildlife, you can spot something different each season. Listen for the sound of the cuckoo in summer, or spot a low-flying barn owl hunting in the winter.

Why not take your camera with you and get some snaps of your adventures for our photo competition (see page 4). With the theme focused on 'A Fresh Perspective' you could try to capture the view of the forest as a tiny insect on the leafy floor?

5

woodland activities in the South Downs

- **BBQ at Queen Elizabeth Country Park** – offering a number of bookable fixed BBQs, picnic benches, shelters and large spaces, this is

a great place to meet friends and family (www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/qecp.htm).

- **Go Ape at Alice Holt** – act like a monkey on the zip wires and rope ladders in the treetops of Alice Holt Forest. Enter our competition below to win a voucher for all the family.
- **Cycle through Friston Forest** – explore the cycling trails of this leafy beech wood in East Sussex.
- **Soak up some history at Kingley Vale** – take a stroll through the magical yew trees of this peaceful site just outside of Chichester – some of these trees are the oldest living things in Britain!

- **Unwind in The Mens** – this woodland near Petworth offers great towering cathedrals of beech to sit beneath and listen to the wind rustle through the leaves.

Travelling by bus or train lets the adventure start sooner so visit www.traveline.info/se to plan your journey.

WIN Go Ape vouchers worth £100

To win Go Ape vouchers worth £100 simply answer this question...

What percentage of woodland in the South Downs National Park is classed as Ancient and Semi-Natural?

Send your answer, name and contact details to marketing@goape.co.uk (detailing 'SDV – competition' in the subject box) by 5pm on Friday 24 July 2015.

Special Offer

Get an exclusive 10%* off bookings at Go Ape Alice Holt by visiting goape.co.uk or calling 0845 643 9215 and quoting the promo code **DVC15**.

*Offer valid until 30 November 2015; excludes Tree Top Junior, Saturdays and Corporate Events. Discount code must be entered at time of booking. Only valid at Alice Holt. Participation and supervision ratios apply – please see the Go Ape website above.

SOUTH DOWNS FORESTRY AND WOODLAND PARTNERSHIP

Ancient woodland covers 17,351 hectares of the South Downs National Park which, in terms of percentage cover, is more than five times the national average. The South Downs Forestry and Woodland Partnership project aims to bring more woodland into active management, improve its' biodiversity and ensure its' future contribution to the National Park's landscapes.

Forestry and Woodland Development Officer, Nina Williams explains, 'Woodland forms a fundamental part of the character of the National Park and contributes to the wider environment in terms of landscape, biodiversity, recreation, well-being and economic development. This project will give particular emphasis to the sustainable management of ancient woodland and restoring the ecological value of planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS) – sites where the semi-natural woodland has been replaced with a plantation.'

This partnership brings together landowners, land managers and contractors to develop and respond to markets and business opportunities from wood-fuel to sustainable construction. If you own a woodland within the National Park and would like a free consultation regarding management for timber, wildlife or amenity get in touch with Nina to find out more – Nina.Williams@southdowns.gov.uk 02392 572606.

BECOME A TREE TRACKER!

While playing in the woods why not become a tree tracker and learn to identify the different types of trees you see with the Woodland Trust's helpful guide (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk). Here are 5 leaf species to get you started...



■ HAWTHORN



■ ASH



■ BEECH



■ OAK



■ YEW

2015 EVENTS

Your guide to what's happening across the South Downs National Park this summer.

For full details of these and many more events, visit our website at www.southdowns.gov.uk.

Please note that entrance charges may apply to the events listed and that events may be subject to change or cancellation without notice.

APRIL

10 APRIL

Welcoming the Wheatears – guided walk

Starting from the bridge over the River Ouse on Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2AH

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/events

07827 830891 **FREE ADMISSION**

11–12 APRIL

Shepherding & Shepherds Huts

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex PO18 0EU

www.wealddown.co.uk/events

01243 881348 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee (see website for details)

11–12 APRIL

Saddlescombe Lambing Weekend

Saddlescombe Road, near Brighton, West Sussex BN45 7DE

www.camillaandroy.co.uk

01273 857062 **Tickets:** Adults £6, Children £3, Family (2 adults and 2 children under 16) £15

17 APRIL

Summer Migrant Birds Return to Lewes – guided walk

Starting from the bridge over the River Ouse on Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2AH

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/events

07827 830891 **Tickets:** Suggested £3 donation

18 APRIL

Spring Flower Walk

Woolbeding wood, Woolbeding Parkland, Woolbeding, West Sussex GU29 9RR

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-countryside

01730 816638 **Tickets:** Adults £3, Children £2

19 APRIL

Meon Springs Country Experience Day

Whitewool Farm, East Meon, Hampshire GU32 1HW

www.meonsprings.com/country-day

01730 823134 **Tickets:** Adults £5, Children £2.50

25 APRIL

Dawn Chorus

Northwood, Slindon Estate Top Rd, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0RG

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/slindon-estate/things-to-see-and-do/events

01243 814730 **Tickets:** £5 adult, £3 child (food and drinks included)

26 APRIL

Saddlescombe Farm Open Day

Saddlescombe Farm, Saddlescombe Road, near Brighton, West Sussex BN45 7DE

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/devils-dyke/things-to-see-and-do/events

01273 857712 **Tickets:** Adult £5, Child £3, Family £13

MAY

2–3 MAY

Medieval Midhurst

Market Square, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NJ

www.visitmidhurst.com **FREE ADMISSION**

2 MAY

Beltain; Burning of the Wicker Man

Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 0BG

www.butserancientfarm.co.uk

023 9259 8838 **Tickets:** Advance – Adults £15, Children £10; On the door – Adults £20, Children £15

3 MAY

Dawn Chorus

Classroom, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9SD

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson

01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members £15, Non-members £18

3–4 MAY

Food & Folk Festival

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex PO18 0EU

www.wealddown.co.uk/events/food-and-folk

01243 881348 **Tickets:** Adults £11, Seniors £10, Children 4-15 years £6, Family £31, Registered disabled £5. Prices exclude Gift Aid.

7 MAY

Musical Evening – Students from Chichester University with Susan Legg

Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6DU

www.Stanstedpark.co.uk

02392 412265

Tickets: See website for details

8–10 MAY

The Petworth Park Antiques and Fine Art Fair

Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 0AE

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house

01798 342207 **Tickets:** £5

9 MAY

Plumpton College Open Day

Ditchling Road, Plumpton, Sussex BN7 3AE

www.plumpton.ac.uk/page/open-days/154

01273 890454 **Tickets:** Adults £7.50, Seniors £3, Under 16's **FREE ADMISSION**

9–10 MAY

West Dean House Opening

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0QZ

www.westdean.org.uk

012543 818238 **Tickets:** Adults £9, Children **FREE ADMISSION**

SUNDAY 10 MAY – 10AM–5PM

The South Downs Green Fair – FREE activities for children and adults

Droxford Road, East Meon, Hampshire GU32 1HR

www.southdownsgreenfair.org

01730 823166 **Tickets:** Adults £7, Children £4

14 MAY

Wild nightlife night time safari

Slindon Estate, Top Rd, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0RG

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/slindon-estate/things-to-see-and-do/events

01243 814730 **Tickets:** £3 adult, £2 child (hot drinks included)

15–25 MAY

Charleston annual literary Festival

Charleston, Fittle, Lewes BN8 6LL

www.charleston.org.uk

01323 811 626 **Tickets:** from £14.00

16–17 MAY

Water Matters – Gauge meets Biosphere

Circus Street old market, Brighton, East Sussex BN3 1AS

www.brightonfestival.org

01273 709709 **FREE ADMISSION**

17 MAY

Brinsbury Show and Country Fayre

Brinsbury College, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL

www.chichester.ac.uk/Courses/Visit-Us/Events

01243 786321

20 MAY

Virginia Woolf's Garden

Monk's House Garden, The Street, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HF

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/monks-house/things-to-see-and-do/events

01273 474760 **Tickets:** £12

22 MAY

Bats and Bangers

Starting from Pump Barn behind the Visitor Centre at Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat, nr Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson

01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members – Adults £4, Children £6.50, Non-Members – Adults £5, Children £8.50 (please book in advance)

23–31 MAY

Wild @ White's African Safari – Children Half Term trails and quizzes as they search for the Quagga...

Gilbert White's house, The Wakes, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 3JH

www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org/events

01420 511275 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

25 MAY

Amongst the Rockpools

Starting from Pump Barn behind the Visitor Centre at Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat, nr Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson

01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members – Adults £2.50, Children £5, Non-Members – Adults £3.50, Children £7 (please book in advance)

25–29 MAY

Wild in the Park

Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 0AE

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house

0844 249 1895 **Tickets:** Adults £3, Children £10 (includes lunch, please book in advance).

25–29 MAY

Big Spring Dig

Storrington, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 4HG

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house

01798 342207 **FREE ADMISSION**

26 MAY

Seven Sisters Wild Beaches Half Term Holiday Club – Claws and Tentacles

Starting from Pump Barn behind the Visitor Centre at Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat, nr Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson

01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members – £13.50, Non-Members – £17 (please book in advance)

28 MAY

Birling Gap Bioblitz

Birling Gap, East Dean, near Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 0AB

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birling-gap-and-the-seven-sisters/things-to-see-and-do/events

01323 423197 **FREE ADMISSION**

30 MAY

Discovery Run

Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 0AE

www.thediscoveryrun.com

01798 342207 **Tickets:** See website for details

30 MAY

Den Building at Uppark

Uppark House and Garden, South Harting, Petersfield, West Sussex GU31 5QR

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark

01730 825415 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

30 MAY

Lewes Hike & Bike Festival Launch

Lewes town centre, East Sussex

www.leweshikeandbike.co.uk

FREE ADMISSION

JUNE

5 JUNE

Midsummer Nights Dream Party (in aid of Chestnut Tree House)

Stanmer House, Stanmer Village, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 9QA

www.stanmerhouse.co.uk

01273 680400 **Tickets:** See website for details

5–7 JUNE

The Garden Show comes to Stansted Park for its 21st year

Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6DU

www.Stanstedpark.co.uk

02392 412265 **Tickets:** See website for details

6 JUNE

Make a lino print (7-11 years)

Ditchling Museum of Art & Craft, Lodge Hill Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex BN6 8SP

www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk/events

01273 844744 **Tickets:** £20 (please bring a packed lunch)

6–7 JUNE

Raven Tor Living History Group bring Bignor Roman Villa to life

Bignor Roman Villa, Bignor, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1PH

www.bignorromanvilla.co.uk

01798 869259 **Tickets:** Adults £6, Seniors & Students £4.50, Children £3.50, Family (2 Adults 2 Children) £16

6–14 JUNE (9 DAY WALK)

Annual South Downs Way Walk

Pick up points are as follows: Chichester Northgate Car Park, Northgate, PO19 6AA, Arundel Railway Station on A27, BN18 9PH, Worthing Lyons Farm Retail Centre, Lyons Way, BN14 9LA, Shoreham-by-sea, Holmbush Retail Centre, Upper Shoreham Road, BN43 6TD

www.southdownsway.com

01903 813381 **Tickets:** £227

6 JUNE & 29 AUGUST

Jazz and Pimms

Uppark House and Garden, South Harting, Petersfield, West Sussex GU31 5QR

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark

01730 825415 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

7 JUNE

Winchester Criterium and Cycle Fest

Broadway area of the High Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9LA

www.winchestercriterium.org

01962 848274 **Tickets:** See website for details

7 JUNE

Artistic Ramblings on the Downs

Monk's House, The Street, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HF

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/monks-house/things-to-see-and-do/events

01273 474760 **Tickets:** £10

7 JUNE

Frog Fille Farm Open Day

Frog Fille Farm Alfriston Road Alfriston East Sussex BN26 5TT

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birling-gap-and-the-seven-sisters/things-to-see-and-do/events

01323 423197 **FREE ADMISSION**

11–13 JUNE

South of England show

South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex RH17 6TL

www.seas.org.uk/summer-show

01444 892700 **Tickets:** Adults £10, Seniors/Students £8, Family (2 Adults 2 Children) £25

13–14 JUNE

Chawton Open Gardens

Chawton House Library, Chawton, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1SJ

www.chawtonhouse.org **Tickets:** £10 adults, Children **FREE ADMISSION**

Photo © SDNPA/Mischa Haller

LEWES HIKE & BIKE FESTIVAL

FREE ADMISSION (please book in advance)

30 May–21 June 2015

A full three-week programme of guided walks and rides around Lewes, Seaford, Newhaven, Peacehaven and Ringmer that has something for everyone. With its undulating landscapes, breath taking views and a sea that sparkles in the sunshine, the countryside and coastline around Lewes provide some of the best walking and cycling anywhere in the South East.

Join one of the Festival walks or rides to meet new friends and explore the spectacular landscapes and history around Lewes. Walks and rides start from towns and villages right across Lewes District and most are free to join. For full details visit www.leweshikeandbike.co.uk



Early Bird Breakfast Walk 20 JUNE

Harting Down, West Sussex GU31 5PN
01730 816638 **Tickets:** Adults £5, Children £3 (please book in advance)

Summer Natural Dyeing Workshop (adults) 20 JUNE

Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, Lodge Hill Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex BN6 8SP
www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk/events
01273 844744 **Tickets:** £80 inc. materials, lunch & refreshments

Unusual Plant Fair 20–21 JUNE

Gilbert White's house, The Wakes, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 3JH
www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org/events
01420 511275 **Tickets:** £7

Wood Show 20–21 JUNE

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex PO18 0EU
www.wealddown.co.uk/events/wood-show
01243 881348 **Tickets:** Adults £11, Seniors £10, Children 4-15 years £6, Family £31, Registered disabled £5. Prices exclude Gift Aid.

Father's Day Trail and Picnic 21 JUNE

Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 0AE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house
01798 342207 **FREE ADMISSION**

Fathers Day – Free entry for dads at Stansted House 21 JUNE

Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6DU
www.Stanstedpark.co.uk
02392 412265 **Tickets:** See website for details

Pride & Prejudice, an innovative new adaption 24 JUNE

Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6DU
www.Stanstedpark.co.uk
02392 412265 **Tickets:** See website for details

Sunset Party in the Park 26 JUNE

Marwell Wildlife, Colden Common, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1JH
www.marwell.org.uk/planning_your_day/whats_on
01962 777407 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Picturehouse Outdoor Cinema at Stanmer House 26–28 JUNE

Stanmer House, Stanmer Village, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 9QA
www.stanmerhouse.co.uk
01273 680400 **Tickets:** See website for details

JULY

Teddy Bear Trail 1–31 JULY

Gilbert White's house, The Wakes, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 3JH
www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org/events
01420 511275 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Summer Lecture Series 3, 17, 31, JULY & 14 AUGUST

Monk's House, The Street, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HF
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/monks-house/things-to-see-and-do/events
01273 474760 **Tickets:** £10

Historic Gardens Weekend 3–5 JULY

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex PO18 0EU
www.wealddown.co.uk/events/historic-gardens-weekend
01243 881348 **Tickets:** Adults £11, Seniors £10, Children 4–15 years £6, Family £31, Registered disabled £5. Prices exclude Gift Aid.

Stanmer House Beer and Music Festival 3–5 JULY

Stanmer House, Stanmer Village, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 9QA
www.stanmerhouse.co.uk
01273 680400 **FREE ADMISSION**

Railway Land Festival 5 JULY

Linklater Pavilion, Railway Lane, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2FG
www.railwaylandproject.org
Telephone: 01273 487798 **Tickets:** Call to confirm

Raven Tor Living History Group bring Bignor Roman Villa to life 4–5 JULY

Bignor Roman Villa, Bignor, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1PH
www.bignorromanvilla.co.uk
01798 869259 **Tickets:** Adults £6, Seniors & Students £4.50, Children £3.50 Family (2 Adults 2 Children) £16

Evening in the Garden – a garden tour with the head gardener 8 JULY

Uppark House and Garden, South Harting, Petersfield, West Sussex GU31 5QR
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark
01730 825415 **Tickets:** £15 (including Pimms and canapés, please book in advance)

An Evening with Glow Worms 10 JULY

Oasis Fellowship Hall, Hangleton Way, Hangleton, Hove, East Sussex BN3 8EQ
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson
01273 497561 **Tickets:** Members £15, Non-Members £18 (please book in advance)

Fete in the Park 11 JULY

Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 0AE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house
01798 342207 **FREE ADMISSION**

Listermania Railway Gala Weekend 11–12 JULY

Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, Station Road, Amberley, near Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9LT
www.amberleymuseum.co.uk
01798 831370 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Woolbeding Wildlife at Dusk 15 JULY

Older Hill, Woolbeding Common, Woolbeding, West Sussex GU29 9RR
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-countryside
01730 816638 **Tickets:** Adults £3, Children £2

Creepy Crawlies Weekend 18–19 JULY

Drusillas Park, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5QS
www.drusillas.co.uk
01323 874100 **Tickets:** See website for details

Rare & Traditional Breeds Show – 30th Anniversary Show 19 JULY

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex PO18 0EU
www.wealddown.co.uk/events/rare-and-traditional-breeds-show
01243 881348 **Tickets:** Adults £11, Seniors £10, Children 4–15 years £6, Family £31, Registered disabled £5. Prices exclude Gift Aid.

Opera in the Orchard at Charleston 19 JULY

Charleston, Firle, Lewes East Sussex BN8 6LL
www.charleston.org.uk
01323 811 626 **Tickets:** £25.00

Twelfth Night at Charleston 21–22 JULY

Charleston, Firle, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6LL
www.charleston.org.uk
01323 811 626 **Tickets:** £18

Nature at Night 23 JULY

Harting Down, West Sussex GU31 5PN
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-countryside
01730 816638 **Tickets:** Adults £3, Children £2 (please book in advance)

Quiz Trails at Uppark 23 JULY–2 SEPTEMBER

Uppark House and Garden, South Harting, Petersfield, West Sussex GU31 5QR
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark
01730 825415 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Wild Explorers 23 JULY–31 AUGUST

Marwell Wildlife, Colden Common, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1JH
www.marwell.org.uk/planning_your_day/whats_on
01962 777407 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Try it! Family Archaeology Day 24 JULY

Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 0BG
www.butserancientfarm.co.uk
023 9259 8838 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Wild at Art 25 JULY–30 AUGUST

Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 0AE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house
01798 342207 **Tickets:** Children £6

Countryside Crafts Day 25 JULY

Swan Barn Farm, Black Down Estate, Collards Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HU
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/swanbarnfarm/things-to-see-and-do/events
01428 652359 **FREE ADMISSION**

Seven Sisters Holiday Club – Wild Woodies – Ship Wrecked 28 JULY

Starting from Pump Barn behind the Visitor Centre, Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat, nr Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson
01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members £13.50, Non-Members £17

Seven Sisters Holiday Club – Wild Woodies – Green Art 30 JULY

Starting from Pump Barn behind the Visitor Centre, Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat, nr Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson
01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members £13.50, Non-Members £17

AUGUST

Gilberts Games & Annual Country Fair 1–2 AUGUST

Gilbert White's house, The Wakes, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 3JH
www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org/events
01420 511275 **Tickets:** £8

DOG FUN DAY

FREE ADMISSION 2 August 2015

Woolbeding Parkland, West Sussex (see website for location details)

A day of doggie fun for all the family. Activities on the day include a fun dog show with categories such as 'best owner-dog look alike', as well as gun dog, dog agility and obedience demonstrations. Local food and drink will be available as well as the opportunity to learn more about responsible dog walking in the South Downs.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-countryside

01730 816638



Photo © SDNPA/Mischa Haller

Bats in the Belfry 12 AUGUST
St Mary's Church, Church Hill, Slindon, West Sussex BN18 ORB
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/slindon-estate/things-to-see-and-do/events
01243 814730 **Tickets:** Adult £3, Children £2

Gruffalo Day – Seven Sisters Family Event 12 AUGUST
Starting from Pump Barn behind the Visitor Centre at Seven Sisters Country Park Exceat, nr Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson
01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members – Adults £2.50, Children £5, Non-Members – Adults £3.50, Children £7 (please book in advance)

Seven Sisters Holiday Club – Wild Woodies Friston Challenge 13 AUGUST
Starting from Pump Barn behind the Visitor Centre at Seven Sisters Country Park Exceat, nr Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4AD
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson
01273 497561 **Tickets:** SWT Members £13.50, Non-Members £17 (please book in advance)

Vintage & Steam 15–16 AUGUST
Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Town Lane, Singleton, West Sussex PO18 0EU
www.wealddown.co.uk/events/vintage-steam
01243 881348 **Tickets:** Adults £11, Seniors £10, Children 4–15 years £6, Family £31, Registered disabled £5. Prices exclude Gift Aid.

The South Downs Show & Hampshire Wood Fair 15–16 AUGUST
Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Gravel Hill, Horndean, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 0QE
www.southdownsshow.co.uk
02392 595040 **Tickets:** Adults £7.50, Children (under 16) £3.50, Seniors £6, Family (2 Adults 2 Children) £20, Toddlers & Babies FREE

Around the World in 80 days – Outdoor theatre production 19 AUGUST
Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6DU
www.stanstedpark.co.uk
02392 412265 **Tickets:** See website for details

Woodland Art and Campfire Cooking 20 AUGUST
Bramblings Yard Woolbeding Parkland, Woolbeding, West Sussex GU29 9RR
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-countryside
01730 816638 **Tickets:** £4

Twelfth Night – Outdoor Theatre 21 AUGUST
Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 OAE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house
0844 249 1895 **Tickets:** Adults £16, Children £10, Family (2 adults and 2 children) £42 (please book in advance)

Picnic in the Park 22 AUGUST
Woolbeding Parkland, Woolbeding, West Sussex GU29 9RR
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-countryside
01730 816638 **FREE ADMISSION**

The Big Dig 22–30 AUGUST
Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 OAE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house
01798 342207 **FREE ADMISSION**

Open Air Theatre, Pride and Prejudice by Chapterhouse Theatre Company 30 AUGUST
Gilbert White's house, The Wakes, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 3JH
www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org/events
01420 511275 **Tickets:** See website for details

Madhurst Grand Finale 31 AUGUST
Cowdray Ruins, Midhurst, GU29 9DJ
www.madhurst.co.uk/grand-finale
01730 816953 **Tickets:** See website for details

SEPTEMBER

Ale at Amberley 4–6 SEPTEMBER
Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, Station Road, Amberley, near Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9LT
www.amberleymuseum.co.uk
01798 831370 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Secrets of the Heath 5–6 SEPTEMBER
Petersfield Heath, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4LA
www.southdowns.gov.uk/events
01730 814810 **FREE ADMISSION**

Alresford Agricultural Show 5 SEPTEMBER
Tichborne Park, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 OPN
www.alresfordshow.co.uk
01962 738748 **Tickets:** Adults £15, Seniors £11, Under 15's Free when accompanied by an adult.

Make a Wild Animal Home at Uppark 6 SEPTEMBER
Uppark House and Garden, South Harting, Petersfield, West Sussex GU31 5QR
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uppark
01730 825415 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Findon Sheep Fair & Village Festival 12 SEPTEMBER
Nepcote Green, Findon, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 OSD
www.findonsheepfair.co.uk
01903 264161 **FREE ADMISSION**

Heritage Open Day – Free entry to Petworth House 12 SEPTEMBER
Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 OAE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house
01798 342207 **FREE ADMISSION**

Fernhurst Furnace 12–13 SEPTEMBER
Fernhurst, Haslemere, West Sussex GU27 3NJ
www.fernhurstfurnace.co.uk
01428 654088 **FREE ADMISSION**

Heritage Open Days at Bignor Roman Villa 12–13 SEPTEMBER
Bignor Roman Villa, Bignor, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1PH
www.bignorromanvilla.co.uk
01798 869259 **Tickets:** See website for details

West Grinstead Ploughing Match 19 SEPTEMBER
Upper Chancton Farm, Washington, West Sussex RH20 3DH
www.westgrinsteadploughing.co.uk
01903 879488 **Tickets:** See website for details

Small Wonder Festival (annual literary short story festival) 23–27 SEPTEMBER
Charleston, Fittle, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6LL
www.charleston.org.uk
01323 811 626 **Tickets:** £10

Community Apple Pressing Day 26 SEPTEMBER
Swan Barn Farm, Black Down Estate, Collards Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HU
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/swanbarnfarm/things-to-see-and-do/events
01428 652359 **FREE ADMISSION**

Pulborough Harvest Festival 26 SEPTEMBER
East Glebe Field, Church Hill, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1AB
www.facebook.com/PulboroughHarvestFair
FREE ADMISSION

Bark in the Park 27 SEPTEMBER
Petworth House & Park, West Sussex GU28 OAE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house
01798 342207 **FREE ADMISSION**

Southdown Bus Day 27 SEPTEMBER
Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, Station Road, Amberley, near Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9LT
www.amberleymuseum.co.uk
01798 831370 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Parham Harvest Fair 26–27 SEPTEMBER
Parham House & Gardens, Storrington, Nr Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 4HS
www.parhamsussex.co.uk
01903 742021 **Tickets:** See website for details

OCTOBER

Apple Affair 3–4 OCTOBER
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0OZ
www.westdean.org.uk
012543 818238 **Tickets:** Adults £9, Children £1

Seven Sisters Walk (via Birling Gap) 4 OCTOBER
Walk begins from Gayles Farm bus stop, Friston, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 OBA
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birling-gap-and-the-seven-sisters/things-to-see-and-do/events
01323 423197 **Tickets:** £8 (food included)

SECRETS OF THE HEATH
FREE ADMISSION 5–6 September
Petersfield Heath, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4LA
Discover the history of South Downs heathland! You'll come face-to-face with heathland characters from pre-historic to present times. Watch re-enactments from Roman soldiers and demonstrations of making Stone Age flint tools and birch brooms. Meet heathland snakes and lizards and the cows and sheep that graze these beautiful sites. Join one of the archaeology walks and learn about the fascinating Bronze Age Barrows on this site. Local food, drinks and ice-cream will be available throughout the day.
www.southdowns.gov.uk/events **01730 814810**



Photo © SDNPA/Clive Bennett

The Devil's Dyke Great Fungi Hunt 9 OCTOBER
Newtimber Hill, Saddlescombe Road, near Brighton, West Sussex BN45 7DE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/devils-dyke/things-to-see-and-do/events
01273 857712 **Tickets:** £8

Slindon Apple Day 10 OCTOBER
Forge Field, Reynolds Lane, Slindon, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0QT
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/slindon-estate/things-to-see-and-do/events
01243 814730 **FREE ADMISSION**

Spider Saturday 10 OCTOBER
Drusillas Park, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5QS
www.drusillas.co.uk
01323 874100 **Tickets:** See website for details

Blackmoor Apple Tasting Day 11 OCTOBER
Blackmoor Estate, Blackmoor, Liss, Hampshire GU33 6BS
www.blackmoorestate.co.uk
01420 476742 **Tickets:** See website for details

The Devil's Dyke Great Fungi Hunt – Wolstonbury Hill 16 OCTOBER
Wolstonbury Hill, Pyecombe, Near Brighton, West Sussex BN45 7EE
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/devils-dyke/things-to-see-and-do/events
01273 857712 **Tickets:** £8

Halloween Festival 24 OCTOBER–1 NOVEMBER
Marwell Wildlife, Colden Common, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1JH
www.marwell.org.uk/planning_your_day/whats_on
01962 777407 **Tickets:** Normal entrance fee

Halloween Activities at West Dean 26–31 OCTOBER
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0OZ
www.westdean.org.uk
012543 818238 **Tickets:** Adults £8.25, Children £2

Samhain: Family activities, storytelling and live music 28 OCTOBER
Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 0BG
www.butserancientfarm.co.uk
023 9259 8838 **Tickets:** See website for details

Fright Night! 30 OCTOBER
Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 0BG
www.butserancientfarm.co.uk
023 9259 8838 **Tickets:** See website for details

Findon Sheep Fair & village Festival
FREE ADMISSION 12 September 2015
Nepcote Green, Findon, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 OSD
Taking place annually at Findon village in the heart of Sussex this event has something for all the family! Friday night begins with a fun fair on the green then a barn dance in the marquee. Saturday is the fair itself, with free admission! There are craft stalls, sheep displays, sheep judging, a funfair and other displays on the green. See the website for all the details!
www.findonsheepfair.co.uk **01903 264161**



Photo © Chris Barbara

GET A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km² of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery. A rich tapestry of wildlife, landscapes, tranquillity and visitor attractions, weave together a story of people and place in harmony.

From the Hampshire Hangers to the iconic white cliffs of the Sussex Heritage Coast, from curvaceous hills, rolling farmland, ancient woodland and lowland heaths to our 'picture perfect' villages, traditional country pubs and flourishing vineyards – the South Downs National Park will subtly seduce you.

When deciding where to walk or cycle lots of people's first thought will be our famous long distance trail, the South Downs Way. But why not get a fresh perspective of the South Downs and try one of these other routes...



© SDNPA/Sam Moore

CENTURION WAY

This linear route of 5 miles (8km) runs from Chichester to West Dean. West Dean House and Gardens and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton can be reached on the road within 1/2 a mile and 1 mile respectively. In Chichester the route connects with the South Coast Cycle Route at Fishbourne where cyclists can continue westwards to visit Fishbourne Roman Palace and Bosham, and southwards along the Salterns Way to Chichester Harbour and the Witterings.



© SDNPA/Arne Purkiss

MEON VALLEY TRAIL

Stretching for ten miles this almost traffic free trail runs along a fairly flat disused railway track from Wickham to West Meon through the beautiful Meon Valley. It takes in the secret place where Winston Churchill, Dwight Eisenhower and Charles de Gaulle met on a train to finalise plans for the D-Day landings. The trail offers the chance to spot wildlife such as butterflies, kingfishers and otters. Connecting with the South Downs Way, the trail provides easy access to Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill. Works to improve the trail are scheduled to be completed this by June 2015.



© East Hampshire District Council

THE SHIPWRIGHTS WAY

The Shipwrights Way is a 50 mile route which links villages and towns through the South Downs National Park. The name reflects the use of oak grown at Alice Holt Forest for Tudor shipbuilding, linking this site with Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home of the Mary Rose and HMS Victory. The majority of the route has been opened, with the exception of a missing section through Whitehill and Bordon and Woolmer Forest. 20 beautifully carved stone sculptures lie along the route.

HIRE A BIKE

If you don't own a bike why not hire one. Here's a list of places to hire in the South Downs...

1. Bespoke Biking, Winchester 07920 776994 – www.bespokebiking.com
2. Meon Springs, East Meon 01730 823134 – www.meonsprings.com/cycle-hire
3. Walk & Cycle 01730 266432 – www.walkandcycle.co.uk/cyclehire
4. Alice Holt, Farnham 01420 521297 – www.leisurecentre.com/Cycling/alice-holt-cycle-centre
5. All Ride Now, Midhurst 01730 817563 – www.allridenow.co.uk
6. Midhurst Bike Repair, Midhurst – 07765 776454 – www.midhurstbikerepair.co.uk
7. Summit Bikes, Selsey 01243 697547 – www.summitbikes.co.uk
8. Coastal Cycles 01903 730089 – www.coastalcycles.co.uk
9. Southwater Cycles 01403 732561 – southwatercycles.com
10. Cyclife Shoreham 01273 596368 – www.cyclife.com
11. Adur Outdoor Activity Centre, Shoreham 01273 462928 – www.aaac.org.uk
12. Hassocks Community Cycle Hire, Hassocks 07521 961909 – www.hassockscommunitycyclehire.com
13. South Downs Way Bike Hire, Housedean Farm 07919 668816 – www.southdownswaybikehire.co.uk
14. Seven Sisters Cycle Co., Exceat 01323 870310 – www.cuckmere-cycle.co.uk
15. Let's Bike Eastbourne 07875 591648 – www.letsbike-eastbourne.co.uk



© Val Carver

DOWN'S LINK

This 36.7 mile footpath and bridleway links the North Downs Way at St. Martha's Hill in Surrey with the South Downs Way near Steyning in West Sussex. Connecting a variety of habitats you'll pass banks of wildflowers, trees, hedges, woodlands, rivers, ponds and streams. Butterflies, such as fritillaries and admirals, can be seen fluttering in the sunny sheltered woodland glades, and you can see kingfishers fishing from the railway bridges. You may even be lucky to spot glow worms and bats foraging for food on warm summer nights.



© Susan Thompson

EGRETS WAY

When finished this route will allow you to explore the Ouse valley from Kingston to Lewes and Newhaven. Currently the sections between Kingston and Lewes, and Rodmell and Southease have been completed, with Lewes to Piddinghoe scheduled for summer 2015. Once complete they will provide some lovely linear cycle routes for all the family, plus connectivity to the undulating South Downs Way.



South Downs National Park Boundary	Railway stations
South Downs Way	Countryside sites
South Downs Way Footpath Only	Settlement
National Cycle Network route (NCN)	Visitor Information
Additional cycle route	Tourist Information Points (contact details on page 2)
Planned Cycle Route	No cycling
Railway	Drinking water taps
Stargazing (more details on page 5)	Repair stations



© SDNPA/Mischa Haller

DISCOVER THE SOUTH DOWNS WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST



National Trust

PARTNERSHIP WORK

The South Downs National Park Authority and National Trust are working together on an exciting new project at the significant heritage site, Winchester City Mill, in the heart of Winchester.

A permanent exhibition and information point within the shop and the main museum area will be installed by the end of June 2015. The exhibition will give visitors an overview of what they can discover in the South Downs National Park, the many different National Trust sites it contains and the history of the Mill.

Winchester attracts an estimated 4 million visitors each year with Winchester City Mill welcoming approximately 40,000 visitors annually. This joint project will place the City Mill as a key information and inspiration point for visitors who want to experience the SDNP.



© National Trust

There are a wealth of National Trust properties to be found across the South Downs, from elegant country houses to miles of open rolling countryside. How you enjoy them is entirely up to you, but if you're looking for some inspiration here are five top ways to explore the South Downs through the National Trust...

1. Soak up the views

Stroll through the tapestry of ancient chalk grassland and woodland of **Harting Down** with hilltop views to the Isle



of Wight. Visit **Drovers Estate** for a mix of shady woodland, rolling pastures and traditional buildings. Explore the River Rother at **Woolbeding** with its ancient parkland and secluded picnic spots or discover the views which inspired Tennyson to write beautiful prose from **Black Down**. At **Cuckmere Valley** the dramatic river cliff offers a perfect backdrop for the historic Litlington White Horse chalk figure.

2. Become a nature detective

Discover scented wild marjoram, white admiral butterflies and the delicate bee orchids on **Blackcap**, or juniper, blue carpenter bees and the rare cheese snail on **Harting Down**. As dusk draws in at the

Slindon Estate

you can watch the bats emerge to hunt for insects.

3. Delve into history

Explore **Cissbury Ring**, one of the most historic hills on the South Downs and the largest hill fort in Sussex with a history dating back over 5,000 years. Pop in to **Winchester City Mill** to see a rare surviving example of an urban working corn mill, powered by the fast-flowing River Itchen. Visit the longest, deepest and widest 'dry valley' in the UK, **Devil's Dyke**, where legend has it the devil dug this chasm to drown the parishioners of the Weald.



4. Peep through the keyhole

Wander through the elegant **Hinton Ampner** reflecting on the distinct



© 2020 Vision/Guy Edwardes

taste of its last owner who lovingly rebuilt it to display his collection of ceramics and art. Peruse the Trust's finest collection of

paintings, sculpture, fine furniture and carvings at the late 17th-century **Petworth House** set in a deer park landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. Marvel at **Uppark's** Georgian interiors illustrating the comfort of life 'upstairs', in contrast with the grim 'downstairs' world of the servants. Explore the tranquil **Monk's House**, a 17th-century cottage loved by Leonard and Virginia Woolf or laze by the river near **Alfriston Clergy House**, a thatched, Medieval Wealden hall-house – the first property ever acquired by the Trust.

5. Take the whole family

All ages will love the **Swan Barn Farm's** fantastic family friendly events encouraging visitors to try traditional countryside craft activities. Get a breath of sea air at **Birling Gap**, one of the longest stretches of undeveloped



coastline on the south coast perfect for rock-pooling, swimming and enjoying cliff top walks.

So pop your walking boots on and set out on a South Downs adventure with the National Trust – wherever you are there's always something new to discover. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk to find out more about all of these places.

FREE CREAM TEA!



© Shutterstock

You could win an afternoon cream tea for two at the National Trust café at Birling Gap, East Sussex. Simply answer this question

What was the first building acquired by the National Trust?

Send your answer, full name and contact telephone number/email to bgcompetition@nationaltrust.org.uk by 5pm on Friday 21st August to be in with a chance of winning this yummy prize....

JOHN MUIR AWARD IN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

'In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks' – John Muir



JOHN MUIR AWARD

"We get the freedom to make what we want... get to express ourselves... we are learning about the world we live in." – student taking part in the John Muir Award.

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

© SDNPA/Mischa Haller

Do you like being outside in the fresh air? Do you like discovering new places? Do you want to help look after the wildlife and beauty of the South Downs? If the answer is yes to any of these questions then the John Muir Award could be for you!

The John Muir Award is a national environmental award that encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places through a structured yet adaptable scheme. The Award isn't competitive but should challenge each participant and encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

The Award is open to all, and is the educational initiative of the John Muir Trust. The South Downs National Park is a fantastic place to complete your award and there are a wide variety of opportunities to take part as a group, individual or family.

"The Award was a brilliant opportunity to get to know staff from across the organisation, their interests both in and out of work and how they relate to the environment around them".

What does it involve?

Four challenges are at the heart of each John Muir Award. Each participant must:

- Discover a wild place
- Explore its wildness
- Conserve – take personal responsibility
- Share experiences

There are 3 levels of the Award, encouraging a progressive

involvement. The same 4 challenges are repeated for each level, with increased involvement in time, activity and ownership.

- Discovery Award (introductory level) minimum 4 days
- Explorer Award (intermediate level) minimum 8 days
- Conserver Award (advanced level) minimum 20 days over 6 months

Everyone, whatever age, can take part so visit <http://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/help/john-muir-award> for more information on how you can get involved. You'll need to do some research before you start your award so here's some top tips to get you started...

2. What is special about your chosen wild place?
3. Which habitats and creatures can be found in your wild place?
4. How does your conserving activity support the Vision for the South Downs National Park?
5. Who would be interested in sharing your discoveries and joining your efforts to conserve the wild place?



5 things to consider when planning your John Muir Award in the South Downs...

1. What was John Muir's connection with the South Downs National Park?

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

John Muir

© The John Muir Trust



WHO WAS JOHN MUIR?

Born in 1838 in the Scottish port of Dunbar, John Muir emigrated with his family as a child to the USA where he became a founding father of the conservation movement, and devoted his life to safeguarding the world's landscapes. It was Muir's view that it is not enough for people to be in sympathy with the plight of the natural world but that they must become "active conservationists, as campaigners, as practical project workers, as scientists, as artists and as writers.

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn."

– John Muir, The Mountains of California

BECOME A WILDLIFE SPOTTER



© SDNPA/Mischa Haller



© SDNPA

200 BOXES FOR PROJECT BOB

South Downs Ranger Rob Nicholls gives an update on the barn owl box (BOB) project sweeping the South Downs...

Towards the end of 2014 National Park Rangers and the South Downs Volunteer Rangers installed their 100th barn owl box in the South Downs National Park! The team began installing boxes 15 months previously and have covered 32 different farms throughout the National Park. This recent achievement takes the total amount of barn owl boxes being monitored by project BOB to over 200!

Throughout the winter 44 of the new boxes in the western area of the South Downs were checked to see how many had been visited by owls. 45 per cent of the boxes had been visited and 25 per cent actually contained an owl! This was much higher than we were expecting, with 11 containing barn owls, one a tawny and one a little owl.

The success of these boxes is down to two factors:

1. The great amount of rough grassland found alongside arable fields nearby to the boxes.
2. A peak in the vole population cycle which resulted in around 70 per cent of barn owls having two broods this year. This is a stark contrast to the previous year when a lower vole population and terrible weather meant that the majority of barn owl pairs did not attempt to breed; it was more about ensuring they survived to reproduce the following year.

Barn owls will continue to be monitored across the National Park in partnership with expert licenced ecologists as it is illegal to disturb or inspect barn owl boxes without a Schedule One Permit from the British Trust for Ornithology.

Special thanks go to the Hawk Conservancy Trust for their expert advice and guidance which is helping this project run so smoothly, and to Paul Hillyard from the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service who has completed a tree climbing course and helped with nearly all of the 100 boxes we've installed!



© SDNPA

River valleys, chalk streams, woodlands, farmland, wet meadows and heathland makes the South Downs a great place for wildlife.

5

birds and animals to look out for...

(Be warned some are much harder to spot than others!)

piercing 'peewit' call. Females can be spotted on nests in farmland or wetland which are simple scrapes in the mud or sand and, large flocks gather in the river valleys during the winter.

Farmland birds: The South Downs is a hot spot for many farmland birds such as skylarks, yellowhammers, linnets and corn buntings and in spring their song provides the soundtrack to your walks. In winter you can see large flocks of them foraging for food.

Barn owl: Spot them floating along field edges and hedgerows hunting for voles, mice and shrews. Some are highly nocturnal whereas others regularly hunt by day.

When you do spot some wildlife please record them on the ARC app www.arcexplorer.org.uk

Visit the RSPB's Pulborough Brooks reserve as a good starting point to spot these animals and many more. Visit www.rspb.org.uk for more information.

Brown hare: In early spring these proud animals are easy to spot as the males start to fight ("box") for mates. They graze on vegetation and bark from young trees and bushes in grassland or woodland edges.



Common toad: Famous for mass migrations back to breeding ponds on the first warm, damp evenings of the year these creatures spend the rest of the year feeding on dry land in woodland, gardens, hedgerows and grassland. (If you see one, even squashed on the road, please tell the ARC team via the app – page 17)



Lapwing: In the breeding season, males put on dramatic aerial displays, tumbling through the air, accompanied by their



All photos © RSPB

Wildlife in your garden



Jess Price, Conservation Officer at the Sussex Wildlife Trust, gives her top tips for helping wildlife flourish in our gardens...

Gardens of all shapes and sizes can be a haven for wildlife at a time when habitats are getting more degraded and fragmented in the wider countryside. Research has shown that most 'ordinary' gardens can support a huge amount of wildlife, and you don't have to allocate wildlife a special place or let it become messy and overgrown...

to prevent the water going stagnant.

Make a Connection

Think about how creatures can get in and out of your outdoor space and where they will go once they leave. Add a hole in the bottom of your fence for low lying creatures like hedgehogs to move through, or even better, replace your fence with a native hedgerow. Why not try growing some ivy, honeysuckle or jasmine up your wall or fence to encourage pollinators from your garden into the next.

Think Outside the Box

Vertical surfaces, textured walls, even bin stores and the tops of bird boxes can be used to create extra habitat. Hang some wildflower baskets or plant low lying herbs into the cracks and crevices of your patio. Small holes drilled into fence posts can be used by solitary bees in spring or hibernating ladybirds and lacewings in autumn.

Embrace Where You Live

From stark chalky cliffs and ancient woodland, to sprawling floodplains, rolling downland and lowland heath, being sympathetic to your surroundings is key. Consider the habitats around you and the way your garden can enhance or



© Neil Fletcher/Sussex Wildlife Trust

Just Add Water

Water is the number one resource to instantly improve the attraction of any garden to wildlife. Frogs, newts, Birds, hedgehogs, bats and bees all need water to survive, so having it available at a range of heights day and night especially in freezing or very hot spells will make a big difference.

If you can't build a garden pond use an old bucket, sink or bath. Use stones and logs to build sloping sides that creatures can use to get in and out of the water, and add some native oxygenating pond plants



© Dave Kilbey/Sussex Wildlife Trust



© Alan Price, Gatchouse Studio/Sussex Wildlife Trust

Although it is often listed as good for wildlife, if you live on the South Downs consider an alternative.

Notice What You See

Wildlife sightings in gardens are particularly important as there are usually relatively few records from more built up areas. Leave a recording sheet on a window ledge so you can note down what you saw, when you saw it and where, to help build a clearer picture of wildlife in the South Downs. Pass all the records onto your local recording centre in one go or use the ARC app directly from your phone!

impact on them. For example, if you back onto ancient woodland resist planting invasive garden cultivars such as the Spanish bluebell which can hybridise with our native bluebell. Cotoneaster is becoming a problem in some areas of rare chalk grassland where it is smothering our native plants.

ARC EXPLORER APP

DISCOVER WEST SUSSEX'S BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE AND WILDLIFE

Designed for tablets, mobile phones and computers, Arc Explorer allows users to record what they encounter when out and about in West Sussex.

ARC Explorer includes a feature known as *Upkeep*. This allows users to send pictures of what they see, which might raise questions or concerns, to the community feed where others can view and comment on them. This could include anything seen in the project area from a flooding incident to an unidentifiable species. Recorded findings will not only drive community participation in the education, management and maintenance of the area but will directly contribute to conservation efforts in the region.

The technology has been developed as part of the Arun and Rother Connections (ARC) project, a three-year landscape scale project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote a rich and thriving river system where wildlife flourishes and people value the natural and cultural heritage of the area.



EXPLORE the rich diversity that the English countryside has to offer.

PHOTOGRAPH the wildlife that you discover out in the region



RECORD & SHARE what you've seen.

Come visit Arun & Rother and enjoy one of our great walks in **TRAILS**.



To find out more or to download the app please visit www.arcexplorer.org.uk. The app can also be downloaded directly from the Apple Store or Google Play.

© SDNPA/Mischa Haller



Most of the 112,000 people who live in the South Downs National Park can be found in our four market towns of Lewes, Petworth, Midhurst and Petersfield. Beyond them lie hundreds of tiny hamlets and picturesque villages waiting to be explored. These communities have been getting ready to welcome you with new walking trails, visitor guides and community shops to name just a few of the inviting things you can discover.

Here are five top community projects to get you started, all supported by the South Downs National Park Authority's Sustainable Communities Fund. Of course you can visit these places sustainably, just visit www.traveline.info/se to plan your journey now.

GET TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITIES

© Lodsworth Larder



LOAD UP AT LODSWORTH LARDER

This community run, eco friendly, village shop is situated in the heart of the National Park. Selling a wide variety of fresh produce and groceries including fruit, seasonal vegetables, meat and poultry from The Hungry Guest butchers in Petworth and local artisan cheeses, the Larder also stocks local woodsman and eco-builder Ben Law's books.

www.lodsworthlarder.com

© SDNPA/Mischa Haller



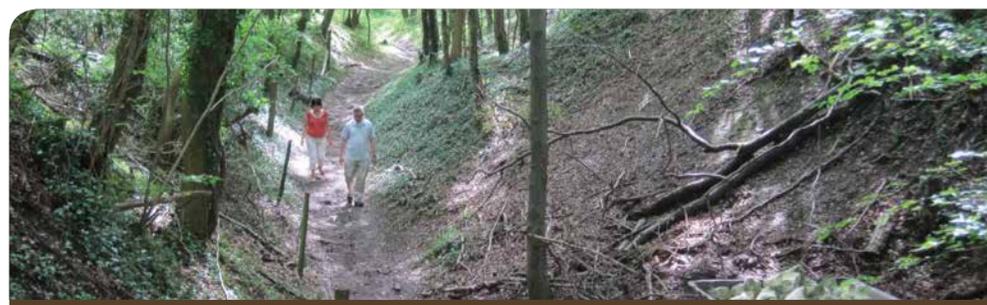
WALK AROUND WEST MEON

This Hampshire village lies in the centre of a great network of footpaths and bridleways. To encourage more people to explore the area and the wider South Downs National Park the Parish Council is launching an updated booklet of ten walks in and around the area this spring.

Differing in length and difficulty the routes take in places of interest, views, wildlife and local cafes and pubs.

www.westmeonpc.org.uk/local-info

© Buriton Heritage Collection



SPOT WILDLIFE AT BURITON



© SDNPA

TAKE A SEAT AT FIRLE

Just 350 people live in the parish of Firle in East Sussex but more than 100 walkers and visitors pass through every week during summer. The charity managing the village hall decided to provide some community seating for people to take a rest.

Three wooden benches and a restored flint wall have now been put in place providing a great spot to take the weight off your feet.



© Octagon Parishes

EXPLORE THE OCTAGON

The community of the Octagon Parish, named after the eight churches in its ten villages, have linked together existing footpaths and villages into an 18-mile trail celebrating their ancient downland churches.

The route is featured together with eight shorter walks in a new booklet, launched this spring and is available from www.southdowns.gov.uk.

Make sure you leave some time to explore the pubs, cafes and shops along the way.

To protect the wildlife at the old Buriton chalk pits the local people got them officially designated as a Local Nature Reserve and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. But they also wanted to make it easier for you to enjoy them.

Thanks to support from the SDNPA's Sustainable Communities Fund they are now restoring an old pond where three trails – the Hangers Way, Shipwrights Way and South Downs Way – all meet. The work will make the pond part of a chain helping wildlife move around the area and will also enable wheelchair access to the top part of the chalk pit site.

www.buriton.info/buriton_chalk_pits



© SDNPA/Gareth Giles

PLANNING IN THE PARK

“Aren’t National Parks just big empty countryside?” The question gets asked a lot and the answer is no. The 112,000 people living in the National Park need places to work, shop, go to school and sleep at night.

Housing is in short supply across the country with the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit estimating 290,500 additional homes will be needed each year to 2031. Much of this will fall in the South East and England’s newest National Park won’t be exempt, particularly as there is a shortage of affordable homes.

“We can’t just say no to all building in the National Park” says Tim Slaney, Director of Planning for the SDNPA. “This is a living landscape with vibrant communities and businesses. Without more affordable houses and work spaces these won’t survive.

“What we need is well designed and properly located development that contributes to both peoples’ lives and our landscapes. With good planning we can safeguard views, tranquility and dark night skies; support the local economy;

promote recreation; enable affordable local housing; and make sure that the National Park is properly valued and cared for.

“To get this right we’ve been working with local communities and other groups to understand their needs and get solid evidence that can stand up to full public examination in the future. Much of this is being published in autumn 2015,” says Tim. “By autumn this year we will have a draft Local Plan – setting out for the first time how we will manage development to meet our responsibilities to the landscapes and support our communities and the local economy.”

Once approved by the Government, hopefully in 2017, the Local Plan will contain the policies by which all development proposals will be judged – www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning



© SDNPA/Gareth Giles

5

examples of how good planning has enhanced the National Park...

KING EDWARD VII

Built at the start of the 20th Century as a sanatorium and then a hospital, King Edward VII was in serious decline since its closure in 2006. This was the first major development to be approved in the National Park by the SDNPA and planners worked closely with developers and the local community to make sure that restoration was sensitive and to get the appropriate number of new dwellings while still making it financially viable. The project was recognised by the Royal Town and Planning Institute’s National Awards, proving that appropriate planning can add value to protected landscapes.

PETERSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Neighbourhood planning lets local communities get more involved in planning for where they live, work and visit, including the services that directly affect their lives. The Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan is the largest and most ambitious plan to be prepared in the National Park so far. The Town Council and wider community submitted their plan to the SDNPA in February 2015 and, after public consultation, it will go to independent examination.

RATHFINNY ESTATE

The South Downs are becoming renowned for having the aspects, soil and climate for sparkling wines that can rival the Champagne region. The Rathfinny Estate was founded in 2010 with the aim of eventually producing more than a million bottles of wine a year. The SDNPA’s decision to allow new purpose designed buildings and restoration of traditional flint barns at the estate to become homes for seasonal workers and visiting groups was praised as an example of good planning by Vince Cable MP.

PYECOMBE FARM SHOP AND BIKE HIRE

Numerous footpaths and bridleways converge at the pedestrian bridge over the A23 near Pyecombe and link to both the South Downs Way and Sussex Border Path, making an excellent spot for a tea room and cycle hire. Permission was granted to convert an existing barn to create both, plus a farm shop selling local produce.

HARVEYS DEPOT CINEMA

Lewes is a distinctive and vibrant market town and Harveys Brewery has been a local landmark for more than 200 years. At the end of 2014 SDNPA approved plans to turn the old Harveys Depot into a new cinema, describing its modern design as innovative and a fine example of how historic buildings can be reused. When completed it will deliver a valuable cultural and community facility for the town.

GET INSPIRED

The rolling hills, bustling market towns and breathtaking quintessentially English scenery of the South Downs has always been an inspirational place. The following five artists lived, breathed and created in the South Downs National Park...



© Petersfield Museum

FLORA TWORT (1893–1985) PETERSFIELD

www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

Title: Saturday shopping at Petersfield Square (1932)

Flora Twort was a widely respected artist well known for her paintings and sketches of Petersfield between the wars. Already an accomplished artist when she moved to Petersfield in 1917, Twort ran a second-hand bookshop, described as one of the finest in Southern England, at Numbers 1 and 2 The Square. Her studio was above the bookshop until 1948 when she bought the cottage in Church Path which is now the Flora Twort Gallery, managed by Petersfield Museum. Her pictures, usually watercolours, typically contain local scenes of Petersfield which are filled with people and animals and there is always a selection of her work on show at the gallery.



© Image courtesy of Towner, Eastbourne

ERIC RAVILIOUS (1903–1942) BEDDINGHAM

www.townereastbourne.org.uk

Title: Floods at Lewes (1935)

Eric Ravilious studied at Eastbourne School of Art and there is a room dedicated to his work in Eastbourne's Towner Gallery. Ravilious, who worked mostly in watercolours, was particularly inspired by the landscape of the South Downs around Beddingham where he stayed at a cottage called

Furlongs, owned by artist Peggy Angus. He considered that his time at Furlongs "...altered my whole outlook and way of painting, I think because the colour of the landscape was so lovely and the design so beautifully obvious." Some of his most famous works, such as Tea at Furlongs, were painted there.



© Tate Images

J.M.W TURNER (1775–1851) PETWORTH

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house

Title: Petworth, Sussex, the Seat of the Earl of Egremont: Dewy Morning

The great English landscape painter, JMW Turner (1775–1851) painted the Downs landscape many times. Turner was a frequent visitor at Petworth House as the guest of his patron, the

3rd Earl of Egremont, and painted many works there. Petworth House played a starring role in the recent film, Mr Turner.

Turner painted the landscape as he saw it. The focal point in his paintings was often the quality of the light and not the great house in the distance. Turner's main subjects were the landscape around Petworth and views of the Petworth Estate. The lake in the grounds of the main house fascinated him and features in many of his Petworth paintings.



© The Estate of Vanessa Bell, courtesy of the Charleston Trust

VANESSA BELL (1871–1961) CHARLESTON

www.charleston.org.uk

Title: The Pond (1917)

In 1916 the artists Vanessa Bell and her lover Duncan Grant moved to Charleston House in Sussex with their unconventional household. Vanessa found the house and its surroundings inspiring: "It's most lovely, very solid and simple, with ... perfectly flat

windows and wonderful tiled roofs. The pond is most beautiful, with a willow at one side and a stone or flint wall edging it all round the garden part, and a little lawn sloping down to it, with formal bushes on it." Inspired by Italian fresco painting and the post-impressionists, Bell and Grant set about painting the interior walls with murals and decorating furniture in their signature style. The house is now open to the public. Included in the collection at Charleston are works by Renoir, Pablo Picasso and Sickert.



© Chris Beetles Ltd, London. Bridgeman Images

ERNEST. H. SHEPARD (1879–1976) LODSWORTH

Title: The More he Shouted the Louder they Snored. Illustration from Princess Nobody

Ernest H. Shepard is best known and well loved for the illustrations that he drew to accompany A.A. Milne's Winnie The Pooh books in the 1920s. Shepard lived in Lodsworth, a small village between Midhurst and Petworth, until his death in 1976. His house in the village is marked with a blue plaque. Shepard is recorded

as saying that he regretted agreeing to illustrate Winnie The Pooh as he felt that the bulk of his work, as a political cartoonist for Punch magazine, was completely overshadowed. However, his gravestone in St Peter's church yard has a charming carving of Pooh and Piglet.

5 WRITERS OF THE DOWNS

With endless paths to wander, beautiful views to gaze upon and a huge variety of wildlife to encounter, it's no wonder that many writers have been drawn to the South Downs as a place to dream. Here are five writers who's words have in some way been inspired by the South Downs National Park...

GILBERT WHITE – SELBORNE

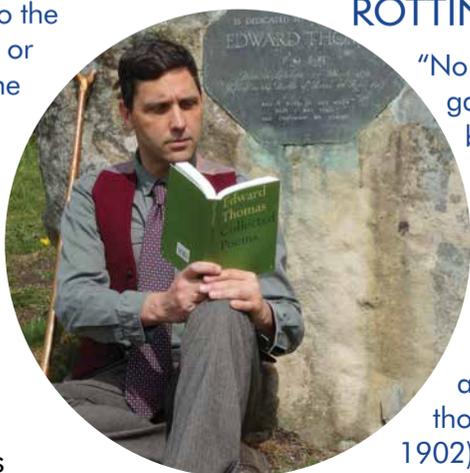
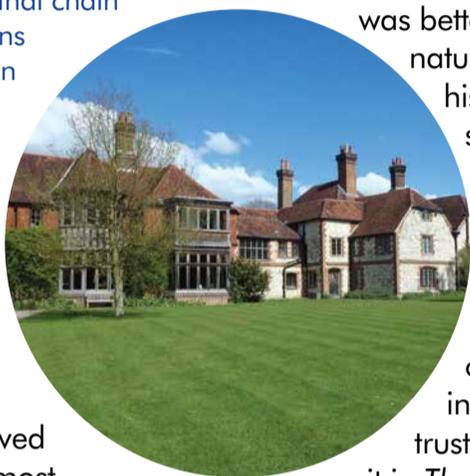
"Though I have now travelled the Sussex-downs upwards of thirty years, yet I still investigate that chain of majestic mountains with fresh admiration year by year; and think I see new beauties every time I traverse it..." (Journal, 1781)

The Reverend Gilbert White (1720–1793) was born in Selborne, Hampshire, and lived at The Wakes for most of his life. It was in this house that he wrote *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, based upon first-hand observations and fieldwork within the confines of Selborne. This book, recognised as the work of a natural history pioneer, has never been out of print since it was published in 1784. As well as recording the intimate detail of the natural world of Selborne in Hampshire, White spent many hours exploring and enjoying the Sussex Downs.

EDWARD THOMAS – STEEP

"The long white roads...are a temptation. What quests they propose! They take us away to the thin air of the future or the underworld of the past." (The South Country, 1909)

Edward Thomas the writer and poet lived in Steep, Hampshire for three years before enlisting in the Artist's Rifles



in 1915. He was killed at Arras in 1917. Now famed for his poetry, including *Adlestrop* which is regularly voted one of the UK's favourite poems, Thomas was better known for his nature-writing during his lifetime. He spent much of his time walking the Hangers of Hampshire and the Downs of Sussex in a series of one-day walks in "a rough circle", trusting that, as he put it in *The South Country* (1909), "by taking a series of turnings to the left or a series to the right, to take much beauty by surprise and to return at last to my starting-point".

There are many memorials to Thomas in and around Steep including a sculpture on the Shipwrights Way (www3.hants.gov.uk/shipwrightsway.htm), windows engraved by Laurence Whistler in Steep Church and a memorial stone on Shoulder of Mutton Hill with an inscription including the final line from one of Thomas's essays: "And I rose up and knew I was tired and I continued my journey."

RUDYARD KIPLING – ROTTINGDEAN

"No tender-hearted garden crowns, No bosomed woods adorn Our blunt, bow-headed, whale-backed Downs, But gnarled and writhen thorn" (Sussex, 1902)

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) nobel prize-winning author of the *Just So Stories*, *Kim* and *Puck of Pook's Hill* came to live in Rottingdean, just outside Brighton, in 1897. He lived in The Elms, on the village green; "Those were exceedingly good days, and one's work came easily and fully" he wrote in his autobiography *Something of Myself*. The house where Kipling lived has long since been demolished but the Rottingdean Preservation Society bought and recreated his gardens which are now open to the public.

VIRGINIA WOOLF – RODMELL

"The Downs...too much for one pair of eyes, enough to float a whole population in happiness, if only they would look" (Diaries, 1937)

Virginia Woolf (1882–1941) and her husband Leonard bought Monk's House in Rodmell, Sussex in 1919. They bought the house for the "shape and fertility and wildness of the garden". Virginia found the peaceful location very conducive to her work and much of *Mrs Dalloway*, *To The Lighthouse*, *The Waves* and *Between the Acts* were written there. She also kept detailed diaries in which she recorded her almost daily walks into the Sussex countryside; "What I wouldn't give to be coming home through Firle woods, dusty and hot, with my nose turned home, every muscle tired and the brain...so sane and cool and ripe for the morrow's task" she wrote in 1921. Monk's House is now a National Trust property and the house

and garden are kept as if the Woolfs had just gone out for a walk. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/monks-house

JANE AUSTEN – CHAWTON

"To walk three miles, or four miles, or five miles, or whatever it is, above her ankles in dirt, and alone, quite alone! What could she mean by it? It seems to me to show an abominable sort of conceited independence, a most country-town indifference to decorum." (*Pride and Prejudice*, 1813)

Jane Austen (1775–1817) lived at Chawton Cottage, now Jane Austen's House Museum, from 1809 until her death in 1817. It was in the "general living-room" of Chawton Cottage that Jane wrote most of her novels. Apparently callers would see her writing at her desk through the window but she insisted that the creaky door leading to the rest of the house should not be oiled so that she could hide her writing if anyone approached the room. Jane and her sister Cassandra were very keen walkers often spotted in the woods and meadows of Chawton Park and exploring muddy country lanes. Perhaps Austen shared the "country-town indifference to decorum" that Miss Caroline Bingley ascribed to Lizzie Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*.

www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk





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VOLUNTEERING. BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE. NEW SKILLS. NEW FRIENDS.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

To find out where the nearest volunteering opportunities are to you, visit www.southdowns.gov.uk/volunteering.



A newly developed online map showing the locations of volunteer groups offering a range of projects in the National Park is due to launch in summer 2015. From this map you will be able to visit volunteer group websites or call them to discuss your interests and see what each group can offer you.

Via the South Downs National Park website you can also keep up to date with volunteering opportunities with the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service, follow them on twitter @Ranger_sdnpa.

Do you like the thought of helping to protect endangered species? Are you looking for more opportunities to get out in the fresh air? Would you like to meet people who find the South Downs as special a place as you? If so then volunteering in the South Downs National Park could be for you!

With the South Downs National Park's landscapes covering 1,600km² of breathtaking views, rolling hills and quintessentially English scenery this is a great

place for volunteering. Working alongside the South Downs National Park Authority, local authorities, conservation groups, Wildlife Trusts, farmers, landowners, the RSPB and the National Trust, you can help conserve and raise awareness of this beautiful part of the world.

There's a great range of volunteering opportunities available out there from supporting conservation research programmes like the reintroduction of water voles, administration for a variety of projects or helping protect the beautiful Duke of Burgundy butterfly by restoring their natural chalk grassland habitat and maintaining traditional field boundaries by learning to lay hedges.

Volunteers give you their five top reasons for volunteering...

- It gets me out into the fresh air, whatever the weather
- I feel a sense of achievement
- I like meeting new people in beautiful surroundings
- I come home healthily tired
- Volunteering is great for experiencing new things!



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THE SOUTH DOWNS SOCIETY

Challenging Friend to the National Park Authority

Most of the country's national parks have their own "national park society" or "friends" group, raising funds and campaigning to conserve their special landscape qualities for the public's quiet enjoyment – we are exactly that for the South Downs! The Society organises, both for the public and its members, a programme of strolls and walks, events and talks; it researches and publishes maps of open access land; it hosts the Secret Shore history and folklore project and, subject to receiving legacy income, makes important financial contributions to conservation projects – all aimed at increasing the enjoyment and awareness of the National Park.

A key Society task is to influence the policies and practices of statutory bodies to ensure the proper care of the National Park, and much attention is devoted to the planning documents of the local councils and the decisions they make on planning applications. So far we have contributed to major planning decisions such as those for the Rampion offshore wind farm and the Durand Academy application. This work is vital to ensuring that the beautiful landscapes and special qualities of the South Downs National Park are maintained.

For more information about how you can get involved in the Society visit www.southdownssociety.org.uk



South Downs Society

Protecting the Beauty of the Downs



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How does it work?
 Each geocache is situated in a location which has a special interest or significant beauty. A geocacher can view the cache details at www.geocaching.com, enter the coordinates into their GPS receiver or Smartphone and go in search of it. When they find the geocache, the finder can take one of the swappable items and leave something in return, and for posterity, enter a log in the logbook.

GEOCACHING IN THE SOUTH DOWNS

© SDNPA / Anne Purkiss

If you like treasure hunts, discovering new places and fresh air then geocaching could be for you!

Geocaching is an activity for all the family and is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game! Using GPS-enabled devices, participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

2015 sees the first Geotour in England established in the South Downs National Park. The Geotour is a special series that brings together a

collection of high-quality geocaches to help you discover hidden gems in the South Downs National Park. You collect points for visiting each cache and can boost your points by traveling sustainably, eating locally and staying overnight. Your aim is to collect enough points to claim one of the special Geotour Geocoins to celebrate your adventures.

5 things you need to take part:

- **A GPS receiver** – A simple model is enough for geocaching, but the more expensive models offer many varied facilities. There are also Geocaching apps available for most Smartphones.
- **Access to the Internet** – All caches in the South Downs National Park (SDNP) official trail are listed on the National Park website – www.southdowns.gov.uk
- **A sense of adventure** – You'll get the chance to discover new places you might otherwise never have known were there.
- **A form of transport** – Most caches on the SDNP Geotour are accessible

by public transport meaning you can leave the car at home!

- **A few bits and pieces** – There is no compulsion to swap items in a geocache but if you do take something it is only fair to leave something interesting in return...

5 reasons to try geocaching:

- **Fresh air!**
- **Discover new places** – unusual, interesting and beautiful locations.
- **It'll get you walking, cycling or riding** – either a long or a little way.
- **Improve your local geography** – new places, new sights, new knowledge.
- **Everyone and anyone can take part** – the kids will love it!

JARGON BUSTER

GPS RECEIVER

You can play using a **GPS receiver** by downloading the coordinates from the Geocaching website or use a smartphone by downloading the app

<http://apple.co/19XgLV1>



<http://bit.ly/1oZeZoE>



GEOCACHE

In its simplest form, a **Geocache** is a container which contains a logbook or logsheet for you to log your find. Larger caches may also contain a number of swappable items – these items turn the adventure into a true treasure hunt. You never know what may have been left for you to enjoy! Remember, if you take something, leave something of equal or greater value in return for the next person.



TRACKABLE

A **Trackable** is a sort of physical geocaching “game piece”. You will often find them in geocaches or see them at geocaching gatherings. Each Trackable is etched with a unique code that can be used to log its movements on Geocaching.com as it travels in the real world. Some of these items have traveled hundreds of thousands of miles thanks to geocachers who move them from cache to cache!



GEOCOIN

A Geocoin is a special coin created by individuals or groups of geocachers as a kind of signature item or calling card. Like Travel Bug® Trackables, each Geocoin is assigned a unique tracking ID which allows them to travel from geocache to geocache or to be passed among friends, picking up stories along the way.





GET A FRESH

PERSPECTIVE...

WALK, CYCLE, CATCH THE BUS. TAKE THE TRAIN

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

DISCOVER ANOTHER WAY TO GET HERE AT SOUTHDOVNS.GOV.UK/DISCOVERANOTHERWAY



Share Your Thoughts

Want to discuss the South Downs National Park with others?

Whether you live in, work in, visit or are just passionate about the National Park, joining our online Forum is the ideal way to raise topics, join in discussions, post photos, take part in surveys or simply find out about what's going on. It only takes a moment to sign up and then you're ready to add your opinion to an existing item or start your own post.

To view the current hot topics or to start your own discussion, go to www.southdowns.gov.uk and click on 'Forum' at the top right of the page.

To keep up-to-date with news, events and competitions, follow us on...

-  /SDNPA
-  @SDNPA @Ranger_sdnpa
-  southdownsNP

Contacts Us

South Downs National Park Authority
South Downs Centre
North Street
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9DH
Tel 01730 814810

info@southdowns.gov.uk
www.southdowns.gov.uk

